‘Wasn’t my best effort’

Vikings offensive coordinator DeFilippo takes the blame for loss to Jacksonville

SPORTS, 1B

Iowa student Tibbetts killed by suspect living in the U.S. illegally, police say

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› CLASSIFIED, PAGE 6C ★ AUGUST 22, 2018

Cohen pleads guilty to 8 counts in deal

He admits to campaign-finance violations, ‘in coordination’ with then-candidate Trump

By Larry Neumeister and Tom Hays
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump’s former personal lawyer and fixer, pleaded guilty Tuesday to campaign-finance violations and other charges, saying Trump directed him to arrange the payment of hush money to porn star Stormy Daniels and a former Playboy model to fend off damage to his White House bid.

Michael Cohen

Cohen’s extraordinary account marks the first time that any Trump associate has gone into open court and implicated Trump himself in a crime, though whether — or when — a president can be prosecuted remains a matter of legal dispute.

The guilty plea was part of a double dose of bad news for Trump: It came at almost the same moment his former campaign chairman Paul Manafort was convicted in Alexandria, Va., of eight financial crimes in the first trial to come out of special counsel Robert Mueller’s sprawling Russia investigation.

In a deal reached with federal

COHEN PLEADS GUILTY, 4A

Paul Manafort

On Page 4A: Paul Manafort, President Donald Trump’s former campaign chairman, was found guilty Tuesday of tax and bank fraud charges. The jury deadlocked on 10 other counts against him.

A call to end gun violence

SCOTT TAKUSHI / PIONEER PRESS

With community and law enforcement leaders behind him, Tyrone Terrill, president of the African American Leadership Council, speaks at a news conference Tuesday at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center in St. Paul about an increase in shootings in the city this month.

In response to an uptick in St. Paul shootings, suspects are urged to surrender

By Mara H. Gottfried
mgottfried@pioneerpress.com

After recent shootings in St. Paul, African-American community members had a message Tuesday: “Turn yourself in.”

Two people were fatally shot in St. Paul last week and others injured in shootings, including three outside a bar Saturday night. A 19-year-old has been charged with murder in one of the cases, and police said the others remain under investigation.

And, in the hours after Tuesday’s news conference, another young person was injured in a St. Paul shooting. A male, believed to be a juvenile, was shot in the arm in the area of Rice and Atwater streets about 1:55 p.m., a police spokesman said. No one was immediately arrested.

As of Tuesday morning, 98 people had been shot in St. Paul this year, eight of them fatally, according to police. Community leaders on Tuesday noted that 73 percent of the victims have been black.

The violence has “a lot to do with egos,” said Greg Jackson Sr., co-founder of Down For The Cause.

“Those that are involved need to man up,” he said. “It’s easy to hide in the shadows and in the dark, but enough is enough. We can’t keep senselessly killing one another and think that it’s OK. I have young sons in this community. I have a number of people’s

ST. PAUL SHOOTINGS, 9A

Dayton unveils housing proposal

State task force’s report includes suggestions to grow affordable housing

By Ryan Faircloth and Frederick Melo
Pioneer Press

Gov. Mark Dayton on Tuesday unveiled a wide-ranging housing plan that calls for the construction of 300,000 new homes in Minnesota by 2030 and the creation of dedicated funding sources for affordable homes, among other proposals.

The report, which was drafted by a Dayton-commissioned task force, outlines 30 general recommendations aimed at increasing access to affordable housing, but provides little explanation on how the proposals would be implemented. Dayton and task force members discussed the housing plan during a Capitol news conference.

“Ultimately, the supply of housing stock … is a private-sector function and responsibility. And they need to tell us what they need in terms of additional incentives,” Dayton said.

The report recommends that public- and private-sector stakeholders commit to prioritizing affordable housing. That commitment could include the creation of a public-

HOUSING PLAN, 9A

White House moves to overhaul pollution rules for coal-fired plants

Proposal would roll back Obama-era emission regulations

By Ellen Knickmeyer and Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Tuesday moved to prop up the declining coal industry with an overhaul of Obama-era pollution rules, acknowledging that the increased emissions from aging coal-fired plants could kill hundreds more

COAL PLANT REGULATIONS, 10A

ALEX BRANDON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump arrives at a rally Tuesday night in Charleston, W.Va., where he talked about his administration’s plan to give states more power to decide how much to regulate existing coal power plants.

More Russian hacking found ahead of midterm elections

Microsoft discovers fake websites that were designed to resemble U.S. groups

By Matt O’Brien
Associated Press

Microsoft has uncovered new Russian hacking efforts targeting U.S. political groups ahead of the midterm elections.

The company said Tuesday that a group tied to the Russian government created fake websites that appeared to spoof two American conservative organizations: the Hudson Institute and the International Republican Institute. Three other fake sites were designed to look as if they belonged to the U.S. Senate.

Microsoft didn’t offer any further description of the fake sites, although it has previously outlined in court filings how this hacking group operated a network of fake sites designed to trick victims into installing malicious software.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said that Microsoft’s report reflects a “witch hunt” in the U.S. The ministry said Tuesday that Microsoft’s statement lacked any proof of Russian involvement because “there can’t be any.”

RUSSIAN HACKING, 10A

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